

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12  
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R 161243Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO USICA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9441  
USICA  
FOR NEA, PASS PGM/RC, PGM/FW, PGM/FN, PGM/PP, PGM/PN VOA/P

E.O. 11652:N/A  
SUBJECT: DESAI'S US VISIT -- WRAP-UP OF MEDIA COVERAGE FOR  
JUNE 16

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALL MEDIA ACCLAIM DESAI VISIT SUCCESS.  
LEAD STORY WAS BASED ON JOINT COMMUNIQUE. OTHER COVERAGE  
STRESSED BOTH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PLEASED  
WITH RESULTS. EDITORIAL REACTION WITH FEW PREDICTABLE  
EXCEPTIONS WAS FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. JOINT COMMUNIQUE: THE COMMUNIQUE PROVIDED THE LEAD  
STORY AND FOCUS FOR MUCH OF THE COMMENTARY. IT WAS PRINTED  
IN FULL BY PATRIOT, HINDUSTAN TIMES AND STATESMAN AND  
WAS SUMMARIZED IN LONG ARTICLES BY OTHER MAJOR ENGLISH AND  
VERNACULAR PAPERS. INDIAN EXPRESS, HINDUSTAN TIMES AND  
TIMES OF INDIA UNDERSCORED CARTER'S PLEDGE TO CONTINUE  
NUCLEAR CO-OPERATION BUT THE PRO-MOSCOW PATRIOT ENTITLED  
IT "JOINT COMMUNIQUE-MINUS URANIUM".

2. NO ARMS FOR PAKISTAN: THREE PAPERS -- INDIAN EXPRESS,  
THE BUSINESS STANDARD IN CALCUTTA AND CALCUTTA BENGALI  
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ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA RAN SHORT ARTICLES SAYING U.S. WILL  
NOT REARM PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO INDIAN EXPRESS VERSION,  
ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING RESULTS OF THE CARTER-DESAI TALKS MAY  
BE AVOIDANCE OF NEWS ARMS RACE IN SUBCONTINENT FOLLOWING  
COUP IN AFGHANISTAN. IT IS BELIEVED "U.S. HAS DECIDED NOT  
TO TAKE EASY COURSE OF RESUMING ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN.  
INSTEAD IT WILL WAIT...HOPING THE INDIAN ANALYSIS OF

EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN IS CORRECT."

3. DESAI AS SPOKESMAN: A COMMON THEME WHICH HAS EMERGED OVER LAST SEVERAL DAYS IS THE PICTURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN WHO FORCEFULLY ARTICULATES INDIA'S POSITION. EVEN WHERE INDIAN AND AMERICAN POSITIONS CONFLICTED, HE IS PICTURED AS WINNING FRIENDS WITH HIS CLEAR AND SINCERE PRESENTATIONS. EARLIER THE INDIAN CORRESPONDENTS HAD NOTED WITH SATISFACTION HOW THEY HAD EFFECTIVELY HANDLED DIFFICULT QUESTIONS FROM AMERICAN REPORTERS ON MEET THE PRESS, AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, ETC.

4. EVALUATION: ALL INDIA RADIO WAS THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC IN QUOTING PTI STORY WHICH HAD FM VAJPAYEE REMARKING "HE (DESAI) CAME, HE SAW, HE CONQUERED." MOST OF EDITORIALS WERE MORE RESTRAINED AND BALANCED NOTING THAT IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES REMAIN E.G. NPT, AND IMPORTANT PROBLEMS HAVE TO BE SOLVED E.G. LONG RANGE FUEL SUPPLIES FOR TARAPUR. STILL, THE COMMENT BY EDITORIAL WRITER OF HINDUSTAN TIMES IS TYPICAL IN ITS CONCLUSION. "INDO-U.S. RELATIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN SO GOOD AS THEY ARE NOW. THIS SHOULD BE AN INCENTIVE FOR BOTH SIDES TO STRIVE FOR FORGING EVEN BETTER TIES IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD."  
PETERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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